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Secretary Rick Perry
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585-0800

Dear Secretary Perry;

I strongly support your efforts to reduce the ill-conceived regulations pertaining to incandescent lightbulbs. The Department of Energy's final rule amending the definition of general service lamps is the correct decision and represents a positive step forward in restoring Americans' consumer choice and reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens. I have long been an advocate for the free market and applaud your leadership in this matter.

In 2007, President George W. Bush signed the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) into law. One section of this legislation imposed heavy-handed regulations on the energy efficiency standards of lightbulbs. These regulations banned traditional 45-, 60-, and 90-watt lightbulbs found in every household in America. The true impact of EISA was to increase the federal regulatory burden and drastically limit consumer choice throughout the consumer lighting market.

Under the Obama administration, the threat of overreaching government was higher than ever. Thousands of my constituents contacted my office with concerns that this law would negatively impact their lives. I led the fight in the U.S. House of Representatives against this policy on their behalf. For nearly a decade, I authored an amendment to the annual appropriations process to block the funding to implement these regulations because of their negative impact on the free market and consumer choice. While Governor of Texas, you signed into law a bill that exempted Texas from these standards if the lightbulbs sold in Texas were also made in Texas. Your decision to redefine general service lamps last week is the culmination of more than a decade of work at the federal and state levels.

While this decision does not end the fight to reduce federal overreach and regulatory burdens on Americans, it is a step toward achieving these goals. I look forward to continuing to work with you on this issue.

Sincerely,


Michael C. Burgess, M.D.